
THE ACTS CHURCH 2:42
"EXPERIENCE REAL CHURCH"

March 2, 2014

TEXT: *Joshua 7:2-12 KJV*

And Joshua sent men from Jericho to Ai, which is beside Bethaven, on the east side of Bethel, and spake unto them, saying, Go up and view the country. And the men went up and viewed Ai. (3) And they returned to Joshua, and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; but let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai; and make not all the people to labour thither; for they are but few. (4) So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai. (5) And the men of Ai smote of them about thirty and six men: for they chased them from before the gate even unto Shebarim, and smote them in the going down: wherefore the hearts of the people melted, and became as water. (6) And Joshua rent his clothes, and fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and put dust upon their heads. (7) And Joshua said, Alas, O Lord GOD, wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us? would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan! (8) O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies! (9) For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name? (10) And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? (11) Israel hath sinned, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for they have even taken of the accursed thing, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff. (12) Therefore the children of Israel could not stand before their enemies, but turned their backs before their enemies, because they were accursed: neither will I be with you any more, except ye destroy the accursed from among you.

INTRO: *There's Sin in the Camp*

Hot off their victory in Jericho the children of Israel move on to other battles

But there is sin in the camp and *Not Just What Seems Obvious*

I. THE SIN OF JOSHUA

JOSHUA 7:2-4 KJV

And **Joshua sent men** from Jericho to Ai … **Go up and view the country**. And **the men went up and viewed Ai**. (3) And they returned to Joshua, and said unto him, Let not all the people go up; but **let about two or three thousand men go up and smite Ai** … (4) So **there went up thither of the people about three thousand men**:

And They Fled Before The Men Of Ai

What's missing?

JOSHUA 6:1-2 KJV

Now Jericho was straitly shut up because of the children of Israel: none went out, and none came in. (2) And **the LORD said** unto Joshua, **See, I have given into thine hand Jericho**, and the king thereof, and the mighty men of valour.

JOSHUA 3:7-8 KJV

And **the LORD said unto Joshua**, This day will I begin to magnify thee in the sight of all Israel, that they may know that, as I was with Moses, so I will be with thee. (8) And **thou shalt command the priests that bear the ark of the covenant, saying, When ye are come to the brink of the water of Jordan, ye shall stand still in Jordan**.

JOSHUA 1:1-2 KJV

Now after the death of Moses the servant of the LORD it came to pass, that **the LORD spake unto Joshua** the son of Nun, Moses' minister, saying, (2) Moses my servant is dead; now therefore **arise, go over this Jordan**, thou, and all this people, unto the land which I do give to them, even to the children of Israel.

EXODUS 14:14-16 KJV

The LORD shall fight for you, and ye shall hold your peace. (15) And **the LORD said unto Moses**, Wherefore criest thou unto me? **speak unto the children of Israel, that they go forward**: (16) But lift thou up thy rod, and stretch out thine hand over the sea, and divide it: and the children of Israel shall go on dry ground through the midst of the sea.

EXODUS 6:1-4 KJV

Then **the LORD said unto Moses**, Now shalt thou see what I will do to Pharaoh: for with a strong hand shall he let them go, and with a strong

hand shall he drive them out of his land. (2) And ***God spake unto Moses***, and said unto him, I am the LORD: (3) And I appeared unto Abraham, unto Isaac, and unto Jacob, by the name of God Almighty, but by my name JEHOVAH was I not known to them. (4) And I have also established my covenant with them, to give them the land of Canaan, the land of their pilgrimage, wherein they were strangers.

What's missing in Joshua 7:2-4? ***The LORD said…***

2 Chronicles 20:1-4 KJV

It came to pass after this also, that the children of Moab, and the children of Ammon, and with them other beside the Ammonites, came against Jehoshaphat to battle. (2) Then there came some that told Jehoshaphat, saying, There cometh a great multitude against thee from beyond the sea on this side Syria; and, behold, they be in Hazazontamar, which is Engedi. (3) And ***Jehoshaphat feared***, and ***set himself to seek the LORD***, and ***proclaimed a fast*** throughout all Judah. (4) And ***Judah gathered themselves together, to ask help of the LORD:*** even out of all the cities of Judah they came to seek the LORD.

2 Chronicles 20:13-18 KJV

And ***all Judah stood before the LORD***, with their little ones, their wives, and their children. (14) Then ***upon Jahaziel*** the son of Zechariah, the son of Benaiah, the son of Jeiel, the son of Mattaniah, a Levite of the sons of Asaph, ***came the Spirit of the LORD*** in the midst of the congregation; (15) And he said, Hearken ye, all Judah, and ye inhabitants of Jerusalem, and thou king Jehoshaphat, ***Thus saith the LORD unto you***, Be not afraid nor dismayed by reason of this great multitude; for ***the battle is not yours, but God's***. (16) To morrow go ye down against them: behold, they come up by the cliff of Ziz; and ye shall find them at the end of the brook, before the wilderness of Jeruel. (17) ***Ye shall not need to fight in this battle: set yourselves, stand ye still, and see the salvation of the LORD with you***, O Judah and Jerusalem: ***fear not, nor be dismayed;*** to morrow go out against them: for ***the LORD will be with you***. (18) And ***Jehoshaphat*** bowed his head with his face to the ground: and ***all Judah and the inhabitants of Jerusalem*** fell before the LORD, ***worshipping the LORD***.

Sought the ***Word of the LORD***

They wanted to ***Hear*** the ***Word of the LORD***

They had to ***Adhere*** to the ***Word of the LORD***

II. The Sin of Achan

Joshua 6:17-19 KJV

And the city shall be accursed, even it, and all that are therein, to the LORD: only Rahab the harlot shall live, she and all that are with her in the house, because she hid the messengers that we sent. (18) And ye, in any wise keep yourselves from the accursed thing, lest ye make yourselves accursed, when ye take of the accursed thing, and make the camp of Israel a curse, and trouble it. (19) But all the silver, and gold, and vessels of brass and iron, are consecrated unto the LORD: they shall come into the treasury of the LORD.

Joshua 6:24 KJV

And they burnt the city with fire, and all that was therein: only the silver, and the gold, and the vessels of brass and of iron, they put into the treasury of the house of the LORD.

Or So They Thought

Joshua 7:1 KJV

But the children of Israel committed a trespass in the accursed thing: for **Achan**, the son of Carmi, the son of Zabdi, the son of Zerah, of the tribe of Judah, ***took of the accursed thing***: and ***the anger of the LORD was kindled against the children of Israel***.

Before ***Joshua's sin*** …

Achan had ***already sinned*** grievously ***before the LORD***

Although it was the sin of one man it had an ill affect on all the children of Israel

Romans 5:12 KJV

Wherefore, as by one man sin entered into the world, and death by sin; and so death passed upon all men, for that all have sinned: ***5:19*** For as by one man's disobedience many were made sinners, so by the obedience of one shall many be made righteous. ***5:21*** That as sin hath reigned unto death, even so might grace reign through righteousness unto eternal life by Jesus Christ our Lord.

Joshua 7:4-5 KJV

So there went up thither of the people about three thousand men: and they fled before the men of Ai. (5) ***And the men of Ai smote of them*** about thirty

and six men: for ***they chased them*** from before the gate even unto Shebarim, ***and smote them*** in the going down: wherefore ***the hearts of the people melted, and became as water.***

III. *Joshua Seeks the LORD*

Joshua…

Sought the ***Word of the LORD***
Wanted to ***Hear*** the ***Word of the LORD***
Had to ***Adhere*** to the ***Word of the LORD***

Joshua 7:6-11 KJV

And ***Joshua rent his clothes***, and ***fell to the earth upon his face before the ark of the LORD*** until the eventide, he and the elders of Israel, and ***put dust upon their heads***. (7) And ***Joshua said***, Alas, O Lord GOD, ***wherefore hast thou at all brought this people over Jordan, to deliver us into the hand of the Amorites, to destroy us***? would to God we had been content, and dwelt on the other side Jordan! (8) O Lord, what shall I say, when Israel turneth their backs before their enemies! (9) For the Canaanites and all the inhabitants of the land shall hear of it, and shall environ us round, and cut off our name from the earth: and what wilt thou do unto thy great name? (10) ***And the LORD said unto Joshua, Get thee up***; wherefore liest thou thus upon thy face? (11) **Israel hath sinned**, and they have also transgressed my covenant which I commanded them: for **they have even taken of the accursed thing**, and have also stolen, and dissembled also, and they have put it even among their own stuff.

Joshua 7:13 KJV

Up, ***sanctify the people***, and ***say, Sanctify yourselves against to morrow***: **for thus saith the LORD God** of Israel, ***There is an accursed thing in the midst of thee, O Israel: thou canst not stand before thine enemies, until ye take away the accursed thing from among you***.

Get Up
Sanctify (make holy) the people – tell them to Sanctify (make holy) themselves
Deal with it! ***Tribe – Family – Household – Individual***

IV. Achan Confesses Only After Being Caught

2 Corinthians 5:10-11 KJV

For we must all appear before the judgment seat of Christ; that every one may receive the things done in his body, according to that he hath done, whether it be good or bad.

(11) Knowing therefore the terror of the Lord, we persuade men; but we are made manifest unto God; and I trust also are made manifest in your consciences.

We need to …

Seek the ***Word of the LORD***

Hear the ***Word of the LORD***

Adhere to the ***Word of the LORD***